

Mr. Ira Glasser
ACLU
132 W 43 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10036

9/28/84

Dear Mr. Glasser,

You demean yourself and you insult me in writing me as you did on the 26th, in response to my letter of the 22d.

And if all you can do in response to that kind of letter is chew an ancient cud then you for the first time make me wonder. I had had no doubts about your (plural) intentions, but should I not if you can't be at all responsive?

For example, I asked why the rush, the Congress being close to ending?

Now I ask another question, suppose, just suppose, that you are wrong?

What then, now that the ACLU has endorsed the CIA's entirely incorrect position, that its operational files are and have been exempt anyway and are not disclosed? (I have thousands of pages of them, disclosed by them.)

What, then about the combination of Reagan assigning it domestic intelligence functions that are prohibited by law and now all those records will be forever immune, thanks only to the ACLU, the rest being conjecture?

Can you not see even the possibility that this will inspire the overly-dedicated to even great transgressions?

How can you possibly tell me when I have thousands of pages of operational records it has disclosed that "this bill will not lead to any loss of information?"

How can you possibly believe that when it has requests about a decade old that it continues to ignore that it suddenly will start disclosing in 4-6 weeks? Can you possibly, to yourself, explain away ignored requests of this age in terms of any backlog claimed, real or contrived?

And if you have had anything like the experiences I've had with them over the years, how can you possibly believe any word or promise they make, in or out of court or Congress?

I did not write you until after the House had acted. I've not campaigned against you or made any public criticism of you. If I wanted to, as I do not even now, I'm not able to. I had and have serious purpose in mind or I'd not have taken the time to write you at all. Your reply is not serious, not responsive and is not the kind of thing I'd want people reading about me years from now in a university archive.

Whether or not any bill would have passed without the lobbying and other support of the ACLU is only a conjecture. There appeared to be no chance in this Congress, and all I'd heard is that there was no chance at all for a total exemption to be enacted in the House.

Whether or not you have done for the CIA what it could not do for itself only time will tell, but from my own experiences I would say and I do believe that you have given it what will amount to a total exemption for anything it does not want to disclose. That is what worries me, not for myself but for the country and, in fact, for the ACLU.

You should have learned long ago that when you act from fear you cripple yourself.

And if you reply at all, please don't send me more of what I'd read before I wrote you, which is all I could get. If you can't be responsive, or won't, leave it that way. That, at least, does not insult my intelligence.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

